



TIME TEAM IN APPLEBY : The Inside Story

The Appleby Archaeology Group welcomed a number of visitors to their February meeting on the "Inside Story" to the Channel 4's Time Team visit. The talk given by Police Officers, Sergeant Grant Warwick and Constable Roly Earl recounted the events leading up to the October excavation of the town's old jail.

Shortly after the Horse Fair the Appleby Police were discussing how to develop their community role. Lots of ideas were put forward including that of asking Time Team to look at the police yard at Shire Hall. The idea was brushed aside but shortly after the meeting Sgt Warwick and PC Earl, who had heard many local stories of the prison and studied old plans of the site were convinced that this was a good idea and phoned Time Team. First they were asked to put their ideas in writing and then six weeks later a more detailed bid with particulars about the site, the stories associated with it and Appleby itself. They were also asked to dig a test pit in the yard and forward digital photographs to Time Team.

Time Team can receive up to 800 proposals for the thirteen programmes it produces each year and many are from archaeologists for their pet projects. This programme is popular with between four and four and a half million viewers. The producers were interested in the police bid because it was an unusual site, and dealt with a different time period from many of the programmes and was going to involve the community, especially school children.

At this stage it was assumed it would be months before anything further happened so it was a bit of a surprise when in September Time Team said that they would be coming in October to excavate the site and film the programme. A number of hurdles had to be overcome such as gaining permission to excavate in the vicinity of a listed building, sorting out the finance, and winning over the doubters. However with the support of the Chief Constable and the Mayor of Appleby all seemed ready for the excavation to begin on October the 9th.

Then with three days to go there was a call from the production team asking for someone to play a gaoler as they wanted to film a day in the life of a 19th century prisoner. The police tried to persuade one of their colleagues, someone who had a handsome moustache, to take the part but he declined and in the end Sgt Warwick took the role and Time Team provided the prisoner. The wider community became involved as Sgt Warwick's heavy boots (1950 army boots) were sent from Catterick and the prisoner's mid Victorian uniform was sent from Dartmoor.

Time Team's policy is to produce good history, a good story and good television. Nothing was scripted and the 50 hours of filming taken in the three days has to be edited down to the 50 minute programme. Everyone on the site was friendly and happy to explain what was going on and the catering was excellent! We were amused to hear that as filming started with the police officers and Tony Robinson talking across the Time Team Land rover the police noticed that their tax disc was out of date!

Something that had to put right!

The police contacted Time Team in the hope that their visit would attract the community to visit its police station. This was achieved and 1000 primary school children came to the site during the three days. As they went round they were able to ask questions of the experts and celebrities, who gave the children simple but informative details of what they were doing. Many senior school students also enjoyed a visit as did the many local people who popped in to see what was happening. The Chief Constable was able to spend some time on the site and talk to people from the town.

Everyone is now looking forward to the programme, which is scheduled to be shown on the 30th of March, to learn more about crime and punishment in Appleby during the late 18th and 19th centuries.

The Police Officers were thanked and warmly applauded for their interesting and lively presentation and for inviting the archaeology group to take part in the excavation.

Phyllis Rouston



Time Team in Appleby: See it on Ch4 Sunday 30th March

Contents:

PAGE 2: Parliamentary Enclosures with Prof. Ian Whyte
PAGE 3: Environmental Archaeology on Shetland
PAGE 4: Summer Events

Parliamentary Enclosures of the Upper Eden and Lune Valleys

With Prof. Ian Whyte of Lancaster University

At the December meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group Ian Whyte, Professor of Historical Geography at Lancaster University, spoke on Parliamentary Enclosures and the Landscape of the Upper Eden and Lune Valley. He talked about the landscape before and after the enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries and cited many local examples.

There is evidence of some forms of enclosures before the 18th century such as strip field boundaries, open fields surrounded by small enclosures with solid walls and enclosures of demesne land such as the 1560s boundary to the deer park at Ravenstonedale. There was continuous encroachment onto common land and there are records of fines being made in the 16th and 17th centuries as plots were taken from the commons.

There was therefore nothing new in enclosing land but from the 1760s this could be done by Act of Parliament. Private arrangements continued to be made usually for the enclosure of open fields for arable use. In 1753, 130 acres at Low Close at Moorland were enclosed and in 1769, 527 acres at Crackenthorpe. One of the witnesses to the Crackenthorpe arrangement became a commissioners for the parliamentary enclosure of Brampton in 1772.

Enclosure stemmed from a need to improve productivity. Commons were being over used and this came to a head in the North when the number of cattle being driven south from Scotland increased from 30,000 to 50-80,000 after the Union. Other abuses contributed, such as the indiscriminate cutting of turf and peat. If the land was

enclosed the individual allotment could be used as the farmer wanted and animals could be bred selectively. Other uses include tree planting at Kendal, setting aside land for grouse, and selling to developers as in Windermere.

Parliamentary enclosure was an expensive undertaking and involved several stages before the Enclosure Award. There are many sources of information on the process such as accounts, correspondence, sale of allotments and estate papers

Enclosure of land took place later in the North than in the Midlands and the South. Of all the land enclosed 21% occurred between 1770-80, 25% in the early 19th century due to the need for grain during and after the Napoleonic Wars and 20% in the 1850s. Local examples include; from 1770-1779 good low lying land was enclosed at Appleby, Brampton and Sandford, in the 1790s uphill land at Shap and by 1821 higher land on the limestone escarpment behind Dufton.

Enclosure was not always successful due to opposition and expense. Two attempts were made at Ravenstonedale, one unsuccessful the other never carried out. At Yanwith in 1812 it was decided that to enclose the Common would be far too expensive and anti enclosure pamphlets were printed. In the South enclosure was sometimes seen as oppression and social engineering wiping out the English peasant. There is no evidence that this was the case in the North West where enclosure was often initiated by the tenants and seen to be in the interest of all.

The effects on the landscape are clearly seen with the straight walls,

boundaries and roads giving a very rational and ridged look. Each enclosure had a stone quarry providing stone for the walls and some were used intensively and then allowed to return to nature. Field lime kilns are seen and in the pre-railway age coal was brought by pack horse. Enclosures were divided into allotments and their boundaries were usually of stone but sometimes hedges or iron posts and wire were used. Around Appleby hedges were of hawthorn which is rapid growing and was cheap. Hedges tend to be on the low ground and stone walls higher up. The walls constructed at the time of the enclosures were of a specified height often 6 foot with cap stones and at least one line of protruding through stones. Roads were converted from muddy tracks and the early ones could be up to 60 feet in width: there is an example at Skelton. The wide verge would provide alternative paths if the road was very muddy. Orton manorial records forbid squatting or grazing on the verges. Later Macadam's technique was adopted and the width was reduced to 30 feet. Sometimes out buildings were constructed such as fields barns and where there were large allotments new farm houses might also be built. Today many of these buildings have been abandoned and left to ruin. These features can be seen at Inglewood, one of the largest enclosures of 29,000 acres in 1819, at Orton, on Stainmore and at Asby Scar. Not every community was enclosed and driving across Orton Scar the enclosures of Orton are apparent because of the green improved pasture as opposed to the heather moor land of Crosby Ravensworth.

Continued on Page 4

Environmental Archaeology on Shetland

With Tricia Crompton

Appleby Archaeology Group held its AGM on the 14th January. This meeting was followed by a member's evening when Tricia Crompton spoke on Environmental Archaeology on Shetland. Tricia has recently completed a degree in bio-archaeology at Bradford University and has spent time excavating in Shetland where her research involved environmental studies of a late medieval crofting township.

The site, Old Scatness, is on South Mainland about a mile from Jarlshof. Slides showed the proximity of Shetland to Norway and Iceland and this influenced the trade routes and culture of the Islands. The northern latitude means that the growing season is short and the islands are subject to severe winds and sand blows. This can lead to the land being covered in sand as occurred at Old Scatness.

Before discussing her environmental work Tricia gave an overview of the site where excavation started in 1995. The first indication of the site was when the edge of a broch (a circular dry stone tower) was clipped during the construction of a road to the airport in the 1970s. The site is described as being multiperiod and there is evidence of occupation from 100BC to 1960. A recent discovery of a peat layer beneath the Iron Age broch may confirm even earlier occupation. The broch and the surrounding wheelhouses (circular houses with partition walls like the spokes of a wheel) are the most prominent remains but the site is complex and there is evidence that the buildings and stone have been reused over the centuries.

As the archaeologists dig down through the layers of occupation

each location or context is carefully recorded, photographed and any finds labelled for each phase or period. The excavation is using a range of modern techniques to date and to learn more about the lives of the people who lived there.

One approach is to use environmental archaeology and Tricia's study was to compare the historical records with the botanical data from a crofting township which was in the uppermost layer of the site and dates from the 17th century.

A botanical survey was carried out and samples were taken from middens (rubbish heaps) and from soil around and within partially extant buildings. In her study Tricia analysed the seeds from 31 different contexts, identifying the type and number of seed found. Other plant remains, such as charcoal, heather and seaweed, were also assessed. She described how this was done emphasising that she had counted over 5000 seeds!

The results showed that early in the 17th century the crops were cleaner and more prolific than later when there were more weeds and poorer crops. In the 17th century the predominant crop was oats but not as much was grown as the researcher anticipated. This could have been because the crops were cut green and so that the seeds were not preserved, or because they were exported, although there is no documentary evidence to support this. In the 18th century the crops were mainly of oats and barley with a small amount of wheat but by the late 18th and 19th century the crop was mainly barley. In the

earlier years the soil was good but as time went on there was more sand and less manure to a point where the soil could not support grain growth.

These results were compared with historical evidence obtained from a number of sources including family papers, wills and reminiscences of visiting gentry. From these sources two significant events were highlighted; there had been a deterioration in the weather in the 18th century described as the Little Ice Age, with an increase of wind blown sand causing a deterioration in growing conditions. This correlates with the decrease in crops in the later periods. In the 19th century the lairds from the Scottish mainland claimed more land and the crofts became smaller. As a result fewer crops would be grown and this again correlates with the botanical evidence of a further decrease in grain crops in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tricia concluded by saying that any results had to be carefully interpreted. Not all seeds are preserved and the samples are not fully representative and conclusions made have to be considered with other evidence from the soil samples such as bone remains, and artefacts. It is hoped that the findings will help the understanding of farming practices on Old Scatness and will be used to compare with evidence from other sites.

A number of questions were taken before Tricia was thanked for a very interesting and well illustrated talk.

Phyllis Rouston



By the late 18th century the tide turned against enclosures and in London a movement for preservation of commons for recreation was growing. The Enclosure of Commons Act 1876 prevented any further encroachment on Common Land by landowners.

Professor Whyte ended his talk by asking if there was a case for preserving the two hundred year old landscape as much of it is now deteriorating. He answered several questions from the floor before being enthusiastically thanked for his informative talk.

Phyllis Rouston

NOTES OF THE 2003 AGM Appleby Market Hall 14/01/03

A brief AGM took place this year attended by 15 members of the group. There was no significant business other than the election of officers which is as follows: Harry Hawkins (Chairman), Richard Stevens (Vice-chairman), Phyllis Rouston (Secretary), Patricia Crompton (Treasurer), Martin Railton (Newsletter Editor) and Martin Joyce (Publicity). The financial balance for 2002 is £165.90. Notes of the meeting will be circulated in due course.

Summer Events

KIRKLAND OPEN VISIT Tuesday 29th April 7.00pm

Surveys at Kirkland have identified significant archaeological remains which are being investigated by members of the group. This meeting is for anyone interested in visiting the site to have a look around.

(Follow the road through Kirkland to the end. Meet in the car park near Kirkland Hall)

NENTHEAD LEAD MINES Saturday 24th May

Following from the talk on the Killhope mines and their social history last Autumn we are planning a visit and tour of the Nenthead site including the mines.

For further details telephone Martin Joyce on 017683 61131. Transport will be by car meeting outside the Appleby Grammar School in the carpark at 1.00pm. Entrance fee £5.00.

ROMAN VINDOLANDA Saturday 21st June

Sunday School

We will be visiting the fascinating site of Vindolanda this June to visit the excavations there and explore the museum. There will also be time to visit Hadrian's Wall and nearby sites.

For further details contact Harry Hawkins on 01768 864340

National Archaeology Day APPLEBY ARTEFACTS ROADSHOW

Sunday 20th July

Appleby Market Hall ~~Supper~~
From 2.00-5.00pm

As part of National Archaeology day we are holding an Artefacts Roadshow with experts on hand to identify archaeological finds. There will also be information and displays on local archaeology and activities for children. Everyone welcome!

Further details are to follow. If you would like to volunteer to help phone 01768 864340.

Phyllis Rouston
White House
Brampton
Appleby
CA16 6JS



SENDER:

MARTIN RAILTON (EDITOR), PEAR TREE COTTAGE, KIRKLAND ROAD, SKIRWITH,
PENRITH, CUMBRIA, CA10 1RL Email: martin@fellside-eden.freeserve.co.uk